

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 130412
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130412

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-BERLIN SERVICES VIA LONDON

REF: LONDON 9114 (NOTAL); USBERLIN 1487

1. DEPT CONCURS WITH MISSION (USBERLIN 1487) THAT UK
DEPT OF TRADE (DOT) PROPOSAL TO LIMIT AMERICAN SCHEDULED
AIR SERVICES FROM US TO BERLIN VIA LONDON IS UNACCEPTABLE,
BOTH IN ITS ROUTING, FREQUENCY AND CAPACITY LIMITATIONS
AND IN ITS REFERENCE TO THE FOUR POWER ADMINISTRATION
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 130412

OF BERLIN. INTERNATIONAL SCHEDULED AIR SERVICES TO
BERLIN BY ALLIED CARRIERS, STILL STRONGLY OPPOSED BY
THE SOVIET UNION, IS A HIGHLY CHARGED POLITICAL QUESTION
WHICH SHOULD NOT BE DEBATED IN US/UK AIR TRANSPORT
AGREEMENT TALKS, BUT AS BERLIN AIR MATTER IN BONN. IT
IS NEVERTHELESS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE THAT THE BERLIN
SERVICE BE COVERED BY THE EVENTUAL BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT

AGREEMENT (AS IT WAS IN THE BERMUDA AGREEMENT) TO ASSURE CONTINUATION OF THE SERVICE VIA LONDON.

2. FOR LONDON: US DEL SHOULD REMAIN FIRM WITH POSITION STATED PARA 2, LONDON 9114, AND ALSO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE US CANNOT ACCEPT A REFERENCE TO THE FOUR POWER ADMINISTRATION OF BERLIN. IF PRESSED, US DEL SHOULD STATE THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS ARE FIRM, AND THAT IF THE UK WISHES TO DEBATE THE MATTER FURTHER, IT SHOULD RAISE IT AS A BERLIN CIVIL AIR QUESTION THROUGH ITS CIVIL AIR ATTACHE IN BONN. USDEL SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO GO BEYOND HIS PRIOR STATEMENT THAT IT IS NOT FORESEEN THAT SERVICE ABOVE THE LIMITATION IS LIKELY, SINCE IT CANNOT BE FORECLOSED THAT IT WOULD EVENTUALLY BECOME POSSIBLE FOR EXAMPLE FOR PAN AM TO EXTEND ITS 747 SERVICE TO BERLIN, WHICH WOULD BE A MAJOR POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PLUS FOR THE CITY.

3. FOR BONN: US CAA AND BONN GROUP REP SHOULD RAISE THIS MATTER ON URGENT BASIS WITH UK COUNTERPARTS AND MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. EXPRESS SERIOUS USG CONCERN ABOUT DOT PROPOSAL IN US/UK AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT TALKS;

B. POINT OUT THAT UK REQUEST TO REMOVE BERLIN AS THROUGH ROUTING IS DIRECTLY AT ODDS WITH ALLIED EFFORTS TO BUILD UP INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES TO THE CITY AND TO ENHANCE BERLIN'S VIABILITY;
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PAGE 03 STATE 130412

C. EMPHASIZE THAT REFERENCE IN DOT PROPOSAL TO END OF FOUR POWER ADMINISTRATION OF CITY AND US PARTICIPATION IN IT IS TOTALLY INCONSISTENT WITH ALLIED COMMITMENTS TO THE CITY, AND COULD WELL BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY THE BERLINERS (AND THE SOVIETS) AS A QUESTIONING BY THE US AND UK OF ALLIED STAYING POWER IN BERLIN.

D. POINT OUT THAT SHOULD QUESTIONS EVENTUALLY ARISE CONCERNING THE FREQUENCY OR CAPACITY OF PAN AM'S SCHEDULED SERVICE TO BERLIN VIA LONDON, THESE WOULD BE A MATTER FOR DISCUSSION IN BONN AT THE TIME.

E. REQUEST UK REPS TO EXPRESS THE SERIOUS USG CONCERN ON THIS MATTER TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE ON AN URGENT BASIS, AND ASK THAT THE UK RECONSIDER ITS POSITION IN THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. YOU SHOULD ALSO INFORM UK REPS THAT DEPT WILL RAISE SAME POINTS WITH UK EMBASSY HERE.

4. IN TERMS HOW BERLIN APPEARS IN NEW US-UK AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT, FOREGOING INSTRUCTIONS MEAN THAT BERLIN MUST APPEAR IN COLUMN 4 AS AN UNFETTERED BEYOND POINT ON US ROUTE TO UK POINTS FOR COMBINATION SERVICES. ALSO, IF FRG IS NOT SHOWN IN COLUMN 4 AND INDIVIDUAL FRG CITIES ARE SHOWN INSTEAD, HAMBURG MUST BE ONE OF THOSE CITIES.

5. FYI. DEPT APPRECIATES CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN BERLIN 1506 RE POSSIBLE EFFECT ON PAN AM'S US-BERLIN SERVICES IF

US-UK AIR SERVICES SUSPENDED. IF THERE IS A SUSPENSION OF US-UK AIR SERVICES, PAN AM WOULD HOWEVER CONTINUE OFFER US-BERLIN SERVICES VIA OTHER POINTS, E.G., AMSTERDAM, BRUSSELS, AND/OR FRANKFURT. END FYI. VANCE

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